

Cleveland, as they celebrate 20 years of educational assistance and support within the Hispanic community of Cleveland. I also stand to recognize Esperanza's celebration of their 13th Annual Fiesta of Hope.

Esperanza, Inc. is the only nonprofit organization in Ohio dedicated to the promotion and advancement of Hispanic education. This organization attracts hundreds of volunteers who tutor, mentor, and provide scholarship assistance to students of all ages.

Since its formation in 1983, Esperanza, Inc. has celebrated its diversity through a yearly "fiesta." Every year, the leaders and members of Esperanza, Inc. awards dozens of scholarships that provide critically needed financial assistance to students. Esperanza, Inc. focuses their resources, time and talents in promoting the most vital component of a productive and healthy individual and a productive and healthy society—educational opportunities for all.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Esperanza, Inc. of Cleveland. For the past 20 years, this significant agency has uplifted the lives of thousands of youth within the Hispanic community, and continues its mission through its dedicated staff, volunteers, and equally dedicated students. Esperanza, Inc. provides financial support, technical resources and career guidance focused on students in the primary grades through college. Moreover, Esperanza, Inc. offers hope and opportunity, and underscores the notion that despite hardships and obstacles—support, encouragement and faith in a child will raise that child far above mediocrity to new heights of personal achievement—to a place where their dreams are realized.

HONORING DR. JAN BILLINGS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the current state of healthcare in this Nation as it relates to the Hispanic community.

Figures released by the Census Bureau last Wednesday placed the Latino population at 38.8 million in July 2002, an increase of nearly 10 percent from the 2000 census.

Unfortunately, over half of all Hispanics in the United States do not have health insurance. This is about 20 percent higher than the national average of approximately 30 percent.

I am especially concerned about the health of many of our Nation's Hispanic seniors. Over 2.2 million Hispanics currently receive Social Security benefits.

Each time that a new tax cut is passed, we put our Social Security trust fund in further danger, thus eliminating future benefits for all Social Security recipients.

Moreover, without Social Security, over 55 percent of Hispanic seniors would be forced to live under the poverty rate.

I hope that those who supported tax cuts for the wealthy can sleep well at night knowing that their misguided policies may force millions of seniors to live in poverty.

TOWN OF DECATUR

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of 2003 moved forward at a heartbreaking, record-setting pace.

The St. Mary's River in Decatur, IN, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river and the Wabash River as well.

But, because of the work of local heroes like Decatur Mayor Fred Isch, Fire Chief David Brinneman, State Master Sergeant Roger Popplewell, and National Guard Unit Leader Sergeant Mike Heister, thousands of volunteers filled more than 176,000 sandbags in Decatur, IN alone.

And when the St. Mary's River crested, it did not break the levee. There are so many to be commended, but I remember two in particular—Decatur police officer Mark Cook, who organized the sandbag filling at the Wal-Mart parking lot and even 13-year-old Melanie Vergary who went out and worked and stuffed bags.

The chaplain said today that "unless the Lord watches over the city" and surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over this city and all the cities in Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and all those who labored to protect them.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY J.
CELEBREZZE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr., devoted family man, accomplished public leader, and admired friend and mentor. Mr. Celebrezze's integrity, expertise and deep dedication to the people of Cleveland and the State of Ohio has left an indelible and positive mark within our community and throughout our state.

Mr. Celebrezze was born and raised in Cleveland and chose to remain in Cleveland to raise his family throughout his years in office. In recent years, he relocated to the Columbus area where he pursued his passion of competitive racing. The life of Mr. Celebrezze reflects great accomplishment, focus and achievement—academic and professional. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master's degree from George Washington University, and a Law degree from Cleveland-Marshall Law School.

Instilled with the values of public service from his father, Anthony J. Celebrezze, Sr., who served as a popular Mayor of Cleveland, Mr. Celebrezze sought a life in service to others. He was elected to the State Senate in 1976. In 1980, Mr. Celebrezze was elected to serve as Ohio's Secretary of State. Mr. Celebrezze was elected as Ohio's Attorney General two years later.

Throughout his years dedicated to uplifting the lives of Ohio residents, Mr. Celebrezze

made significant improvements regarding a wide range of environmental and consumer protection issues. Because of Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to Ohio consumers, auto buyers in Ohio are protected by the "lemon law." A staunch protector and advocate of Ohio's natural environment, Mr. Celebrezze worked tirelessly for strict control of waste shipment into Ohio, and clamped down on industrial pollution.

Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s steadfast integrity, kindness and humble nature reflected his character and defined his tenure as public servant. His humble nature belied his deep intellect, vision and keen political savvy. Though immensely successful, title and accolades did not hold significance for him—care for his family and service to community did. Anthony J. Celebrezze was a true leader in every sense—a genuine individual whose modesty and strong sense of self cast a rare and steady beacon of light across the shadowy game of politics. He consistently disregarded political pressures and kept focused on improving the lives of his constituents, working tirelessly on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr., an exceptional man and caring leader whose life profoundly impacted the lives of thousands. His passing marks a deep loss for countless who called him friend—including me. Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to others is clearly evidenced within our consumer protection laws and cleaner environment, and will remain so for all time. His radiant legacy of consumer advocacy and environmental protection will be remembered always by the people of Ohio. Moreover, it was the power of his kindness, grace, tenacity and heart that uplifted and enlightened every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Celebrezze's beloved wife, Louisa; his beloved children, Anthony J. III, Charles, David, Catherine and Maria. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s exceptional life will serve as a timeless example of leadership, and service to others—and although he will be deeply missed—his indelible legacy—fueled by the power of kindness, grace and heart, will forever resound throughout our community and throughout the State of Ohio.

HONORING ARTURO MORENO

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arturo Moreno, the new owner of the World Champion Anaheim Angels.

Mr. Moreno's purchase of the World Series champions not only made him the first minority with a controlling stake in a major league team, it made him the first Latino owner in major team sports.

In a league where 28 percent of the players are foreign born, this is an important step in continuing diversity in Major League Baseball.

When Jackie Robinson entered the League in 1947, he broke baseball color barriers. Today, I'm proud to say that Mr. Moreno is